Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claim 3.
Please add new claims 14-21.

1. **(Original)** A method for treating arthritis comprising delivering to a subject a therapeutic gene using a lentiviral gene delivery vector such that the gene is expressed at sufficient levels and for a sufficient period to treat the subject.

2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the lentiviral vector is selected from the group consisting of HIV, FIV, SIV, BIV, EIAV vectors.

3. **(Cancel)**

4. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the lentiviral vector is injected directly into an affected joint of the subject.

5. **(Original)** A method for treating arthritis comprising transfecting cells *ex vivo* with a therapeutic gene using a lentiviral gene delivery vector and administering the cells to a subject.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 5, wherein the lentiviral vector is selected from the group consisting of HIV, FIV, SIV, BIV, and EIAV vectors.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 5, wherein the therapeutic gene is selected from the group consisting of soluble Interleukin-1α Receptor Type I, Soluble Interleukin-1α Receptor Type II, Interleukin –1α Receptor Antagonist Protein (IRAP), Insulin-Like Growth Factor (IGF), Tissue Inhibitors of Matrix Metallo-Proteinases (TIMP) –1,-2,-3,-4, Bone Morphogenic Protein (BMP)-2 and –7, Indian Hedgehog, Sox-9, Interleukin-4, Transforming Growth Factor (TGF) –β, Superficial Zone Protein, Cartilage Growth and Differentiation Factors (CGDF), Bcl-2, Soluble Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF)–α Receptor, Fibronectin and/or Fibronectin Fragments, Leukemia Inhibitory Factor (LIF), LIF binding protein (LBP), Interleukin-4, Interleukin-10, Interleukin-11, Interleukin-13, Hyaluronan Synthase, soluble TNF-α receptors 55 and 75, Insulin Growth Factor (IGF)-1, activators of plasminogen, urokinase plasminogen activator (uPA), parathyroid hormone-related protein (PTHrP), and platelet derived growth factor (PDGF)-AA –AB or –BB.

8. **(Original)** The method of claim 5, wherein the cells are autologous.

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 8, wherein the cells are bone marrow cells.

10. **(Original)** The method of claim 8, wherein the cells are mesenchymal stem cells obtained from adipose tissue.

11. **(Original)** The method of claim 8, wherein the cells are synovial fibroblasts or chondrocytes

12. **(Original)** The method of claim 5, wherein the cells are non-autologous (allogeneic or xenogenic).

13. **(Original)** The method of claim 12, wherein the cells are a cell line or primary cells derived from a human or animal source.

14. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the therapeutic gene is selected from the group consisting of a gene encoding a soluble IL-1 receptor, an antagonist of an IL-1 receptor, a soluble TNF-α receptor, a TGF-β family member, a plasminogen activator, a plaminogen inhibitor, a tissue inhibitor of matrix metallo-proteinases (TIMP), a matrix metallo-proteinase (MMP), an interleukin (IL), and a platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF).

15. **(New)** The method of claim 14, wherein the soluble IL-1 receptor is selected from the group consisting of a soluble Interleukin-1α receptor type I or a soluble Interleukin-1α receptor type II.

16. **(New)** The method of claim 14, wherein the antagonist of the IL-1 receptor is an Interleukin-1α receptor antagonist (IL-1Ra).

17. **(New)** The method of claim 14, wherein the TIMP is selected from the group consisting of TIMP-1, TIMP-2, TIMP-3, and TIMP-4.

18. **(New)** The method of claim 14, wherein the IL is selected from the group consisting of IL-4, IL-10, IL-11, and IL-13.

19. **(New)** The method of claim 14, wherein the PDGF is selected from the group consisting of PDGF-AA, PDGF–AB, and PDGF-BB.

20. **(New)** The method of claim 14, wherein the soluble TNF-α receptor is soluble TNF-R55 or soluble TNF-R75.

21. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the therapeutic gene is selected from the group consisting of fibronectin, a fibronectin fragment, Transforming Growth Factor-β (TGF–β), Insulin-Like Growth Factor (IGF), Leukemia Inhibitory Factor (LIF), LIF binding protein (LBP), Bone Morphogenic Protein-2 (BMP-2), Bone Morphogenic Protein-7 (BMP-7), Insulin Growth Factor (IGF)-1, Indian hedgehog (Ihh), parathyroid hormone-related protein (PTHrP), hyaluronan synthase, Sox-9, Superficial Zone Protein, Cartilage Growth and Differentiation Factors (CGDF), Bcl-2, soluble TNF-R55, soluble TNF-R75, and a urokinase plasminogen activator (uPA).